

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of handling a pressurized water reactor fuel assembly which has a top nozzle and guide thimbles and divots, comprising:

- supporting a tool configured to handle the fuel assembly;
- positioning the tool over a top of the fuel assembly;
- lowering the tool onto the top of the fuel assembly such that at least two alignment pins engage the top nozzle of the fuel assembly;
- actuating a shaft to lower lock fingers into the guide thimbles of the fuel assembly;

- positioning the lock fingers to a position ~~below divots~~ in front of the divots of the guide thimble in the fuel assembly to be engaged;

- engaging lock finger tabs into the divots of the guide thimble to an extended position; and

- lifting the fuel assembly and the tool, wherein structural load of the lifted fuel assembly passes ~~from the divots~~ to the tool during the lifting of the fuel assembly through the lock fingers positioned in the divots of the guide thimble, the divots formed by swaging of the guide thimbles to guide thimble sleeves that attach the top nozzle of the fuel assembly to the guide thimbles.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising: disengaging the tool from the fuel assembly.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the shaft is rotated to lower the lock fingers into the guide thimbles.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the actuating of the shaft to lower the lock fingers is performed by a mandrel shaft which allows a spring tension to be applied to the lock fingers.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Cancelled).
8. (Cancelled).
9. (Cancelled).
10. (Cancelled).
11. (Cancelled).
12. (Cancelled).
13. (Cancelled).
14. (Cancelled).
15. (Cancelled).